SENATE BILL 288

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO TAXATION; ENACTING AN INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR COMPLETION OF PREMARITAL EDUCATION OR MARRIAGE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. A new section of the Income Tax Act is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] CREDIT--PREMARITAL EDUCATION OR MARRIAGE
MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS. --

A. A resident who files an individual New Mexico income tax return and who is not a dependent of another individual may claim a credit in the amount of up to one hundred dollars (\$100) for amounts paid for a premarital education or marriage maintenance program in the taxable year for which the credit is claimed.

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- B. The credit provided in this section may only be deducted from the taxpayer's New Mexico income tax liability for the taxable year.
- C. A husband and wife who file separate returns for a taxable year in which they could have filed a joint return may each claim only one-half of the credit provided under this section that would have been allowed on a joint return.
- D. The credit provided in this section may be claimed only for a premarital education or marriage maintenance program:
- (1) that provides a minimum of six hours of education or counseling in no less than three separate sessions:
- (2) is conducted by an official representative of a religious institution or his designee or a person who is licensed or certified pursuant to state law as a marriage and family therapist, a psychiatrist, a psychologist, a professional clinical mental health counselor, an independent social worker or a certified family life educator; and
- (3) for which the taxpayer has received written certification verifying completion in a form determined by the department."
- Section 2. APPLICABILITY. -- The provisions of this act

apply to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2002.

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